

# **MONTEREY BAY NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY**

## **OFFICE REPORT**

December 1, 2001 – February 12, 2002

### **Management**

January 18, 2002 LCDR Michele Finn transferred from the MBNMS to the NOAA Aircraft Operations Center. She had served as Assistant Superintendent for the past two years.

On other personnel matters, Bernie Denno, from NOAA's Office of Finance and Administration, began a three-month detail on February 11, and will be taking on the majority of Michele's duties. Lisa de Marignac has returned from her world travels to a management support specialist position. Lastly, Lisa Emanuelson, hired as a fulltime resource issue education specialist will be working on water quality education and other education related duties.

The Joint Management Plan Review (JMPR) process completed its 2001 schedule with 20 scoping meetings along the coast of California, and in Sacramento and Washington, DC.

Thalia Jennings has been hired by the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Foundation to provide administrative support for SIMoN.

On January 21, Sean Morton and Advisory Council Recreation Representative Dan Haifley spoke to the Harbor Patrol Association at their Annual Conference in Half Moon Bay, and the San Mateo County Surfrider Foundation. The primary topics of discussion were the use of Motorized Personal Watercraft in the Sanctuary and the Joint Management Plan Review.

The Sanctuary's Conservation Working Group met to discuss management plan review topics and outline the components of a formal letter addressing their priorities.

The Business & Tourism Activity Panel met in January in Santa Cruz to discuss JMPR status, the development of a BTAP web page, and to nominate a business for the Sanctuary Reflections Awards.

Bill Douros hosted Dave Jansen on a daylong tour of the MBNMS on Friday, January 25. Dave serves as the staff to the minority of the Natural Resources Committee in the House of Representatives. Stops included the MBNMS boat and dive shack, Moss Landing Harbor, and the potential site for a proposed visitor center at Seacliff State Park. Bill and staff briefed Dave on MERITO (Multicultural Education for Resource Issues Threatening Oceans), the joint management plan review, SIMoN, Caltrans and ocean disposal, marine reserve discussions with the Alliance group, and the Water Quality Protection Program.

February 7 & 8, SAC Chair, Stephanie Harlan, and SAC Coordinator, Karen Grimmer, attended the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual SAC Chair/Coordinator meeting in Marathon, Florida. Agenda items included status reports from SAC Chairs, SAC AOPs, annual reports, annual retreats, and future initiatives.

MBNMS hosted a visit from Margo Jackson, Deputy to Dan Basta, on February 11-12.

### **Education and Outreach**

The San Simeon Monument for MBNMS is under construction and has full approval from San Simeon State Park. Installation should begin April, 2002.

December 10, 2001, Michele Roest spoke at San Simeon State Parks District Meeting to 250 state parks employees, updating them on Joint Management Plan Review and what to expect for the coming year.

On January 8 & 9, Michele Roest attended planning meetings for Baja to Bering, the west coast cruise for the R/V MacArthur scheduled to begin in April 2002. Additional meetings have occurred with research staff. The MBNMS has 8 days of the 60-day cruise to the West coast sanctuaries. Our days are May 6<sup>th</sup> to May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2002.

Education staff has been planning this spring's Sanctuary Student Summit for several months, and invitations went out the week of February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2002. This year, the event will be combined with the ROV Contest sponsored by Monterey Bay Aquarium & MATE Center and the joint event will be funded by the Coastal America Student Ocean Conference program. Field trips & workshops, a career panel, guest speech by Sylvia Earle, and an overnight at the MB Aquarium will also be part of the experience for students. The Student Ocean Conference is entitled "Here Today, Here Tomorrow: Using Science and Submersibles to Conserve our Marine Resources" and will take place on May 10-11, 2002.

The traffic-redirection program has begun at Arroyo Laguna, near San Simeon. Docents from Friends of the Elephant Seal and contractors from Monterey Bay Sanctuary Foundation directed tourists away from Arroyo Laguna, where harassment has been a problem. Tourists are sent from sensitive sites to the proper viewing site equipped with docents and fencing. About 400 people were redirected this past weekend.

A film crew from "NBC's Wild Moments" visited San Simeon on January 18-19 to film the elephant seals.

### **Research**

Research staff completed a review of the science/management assessment report completed by the National Programs Branch.

The pre-proposals for SIMoN projects in Elkhorn Slough, related to the Duke Power Plant modification, were reviewed and commented on. Projects selected for full proposals were submitted and sent out for external reviews by subject experts.

A Research Fellow position to work with the MBNMS on undersea cable impacts has been announced at <http://www.mbari.org/oed/jobs/research-fellow.html>

The MBNMS has agreed to help plan and coordinate a workshop for the NOAA Office of Ocean Exploration to help define regional exploration opportunities. The workshop will be held in March. At the request of Office of Exploration, MBNMS submitted a list of possible attendees for a West Coast planning meeting to set OE's future priority programs.

Andrew DeVogelaere, as chief scientist, held a meeting with all participants of the MBNMS cruise to Davidson Seamount, funded by the Office of Exploration. The cruise will be aboard MBARI's R/V Western Flyer, May 17-24.

Kelly Newton completed a research poster on Beach COMBERS data related to impacts of oil on seabirds. It was presented at the annual Research Coordinators meeting, is on display at Sanctuary headquarters, and will be presented at the California seabird meeting.

The week of January 29, Erica Burton attended a 1-day workshop in Moss Landing to discuss the development of the Alliance for California Current Ecosystem Observation (ACCEO). Workshop participants discussed the possibilities of coordinating monitoring of the pelagic ecosystem of the entire California Current. Erica lent Sanctuary support, and stressed that pelagic, long-term monitoring was a high priority for SIMoN. Workshop conclusions included an agreement on the need for large-scale sampling, data sharing, and a monitoring program of the California Current; a mission statement; and future meetings in Seattle and Monterey.

From January 28<sup>th</sup> – February 1<sup>st</sup>, Andrew DeVogelaere attended the 2nd Annual Research Coordinators meeting in Charleston, South Carolina. At an evening reception, the SIMoN program was presented an "Award for Science in Action", in recognition of ground-breaking work to develop scientific programs.

MBNMS Research staff completed a review of the draft chapters of the "Ecolinkages Report" associated with the NCCOS Central and Northern California Biogeographic Assessment.

An MBNMS request for NOAA ship time was completed for FY '03.

On February 9, the Research and Education Teams combined efforts to complete an enrichment program for the Beach COMBERS in the Cambria area. It's a dedicated and motivated group of volunteers providing good scientific data.

The RAP met at the Naval Postgraduate School on February 8 to address: a Reserve Network model, regional workshop summaries on invasive species and weather model development, CalCOFI monitoring, the Bering to Baja cruise, and short information items.

### **Resource Protection**

On December 7, MBNMS gave testimony at a meeting of the SLO Regional Water Quality Control Board opposing changing permitting practices for desalination plants, aquaculture facilities and aquaria. A letter was then sent to the State Water Resources Control Board objecting to the December 7 permit decision, which included desalination facilities as a low

threat discharge under a general permit. We are working with the Regional Board to reverse this decision or develop means to continue a more thorough evaluation of desalination afforded by individual permits.

Comments were sent to headquarters on an EPA document addressing introduction of exotic species via ballast water, asking EPA to address these discharges under a permit system authorized by the Clean Water Act, and to prohibit ballast water discharges in the Sanctuary.

December 13, Katie Siegler representing MBNMS attended the Monterey County Information Exchange meeting to discuss development of new local watershed groups.

On January 17, Katie Siegler and Holly Price attended a meeting called by Natural Resources Conservation Service and Congressman Farr's staff to review progress from the past year of USDA funding to NRCS for the Sanctuary's agricultural water quality plan. Farr and his staff were pleased with the level of progress made and the numerous partners involved, and announced that they would be providing NRCS and its partners additional funding of \$600,000 for FY02 to implement the plan.

The Sanctuary Citizen Watershed Monitoring Network, led by Bridget Hoover, was awarded a small grant of \$2000 to purchase water quality monitoring equipment for use by volunteers on this year's Snapshot Day event.

Bridget Hoover and Holly Price coordinated with the Sanctuary Foundation, local counties and cities to submit a \$300k Proposition 13 funding proposal this week for DNA analysis of coliform contamination to identify human and wildlife sources contributing to numerous local beach closures.

Holly Price participated in a Caltrans steering committee meeting for Highway 1 management and landslide disposal issues. Alec Arago of Congressman Farr's staff announced that he is working with Assemblyman Keeley to introduce state legislation that would require Caltrans to carry out the plan, which is scheduled for final draft in the fall of 2002.

Bill and Holly met with NMFS regarding a proposed desalination plant to ease use of the Carmel River as a water supply for the Peninsula. A plan to remove a dam in the Carmel River, to enhance threatened steelhead populations, is linked to the desalination plant proposal.

The US Coast Guard and OSPR identified the shipwreck SS Jacob Luckenbach as the culprit of the San Mateo Mystery spill that has oiled hundreds of birds from Monterey to Point Reyes. The Coast Guard conducted an increasingly intense effort to identify the source of the spill, with significant support from OSPR and NOAA.

Deirdre Hall monitored potential effects of a low-flying helicopter filming a Jaguar TV commercial at the Bixby Bridge and Pt. Sur lighthouse area. She observed no adverse effects.

Deirdre Hall and Scott Kathey met with the Navy to discuss a passive listening cable within the Sanctuary. The cable was originally installed off Pt. Sur 50 years ago. The Navy was issued a

permit to repair this cable in August of 2001 (which they subsequently refused to sign). Discussion topics included: future use of the cable, cleanup operations resultant from abandoned cable chunks, biological impact evaluation, safety concerns & technical expertise.

### **Special Events**

The week of January 15, Katie Siegler presented the WQPP's Agriculture Plan at the San Benito Farm Water Quality Short Course to a group of 20 local farmers.

Upcoming events include:

Sanctuary Currents Symposium on March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2002, 8:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at California State University, Monterey Bay.

The Student Ocean Conference is entitled "Here Today, Here Tomorrow: Using Science and Submersibles to Conserve our Marine Resources" and will take place on May 10-11, 2002 in Monterey.

Sanctuary Snapshot Day on Sunday April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2002 entails a Sanctuary-wide effort by volunteers to collect water quality monitoring data.

May 6<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup>, MBNMS will host the NOAA R/V MacArthur for an 8-day cruise as part of "Investigations of Marine Sanctuaries".

May 17<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup>, Andrew DeVogelaere will lead the MBNMS Davidson Seamount cruise aboard MBARI's R/V Western Flyer.

### **Media Coverage, December 1, 2001 – February 12, 2002**

These represent only those printed, televised or broadcast stories relating to the Sanctuary or ocean issues that have come to our attention. It is likely there are others.

Storm Brings Huge Waves (12/3/2001) Monterey County Herald.

Coastal Issues Remain (12/3/01) Monterey County Herald. Carmel Still Working on Program.

Trawler Sinks In Waves Off Wharf (12/4/2001) Monterey County Herald. San Luis Obispo - State Sued Over

Endangered Species (12/4/2001) Monterey County Herald.

New Limits On Sport Fishing (12/8/2001) Monterey County Herald.

The Cambrian. Deadline nears for Sanctuary volunteers. (December 6 – 12). Applications for MBNMS's SAC.

Crab Fishermen Back At Work After Strike - San Francisco (12/8/2001) Monterey County Herald.

Coast Guard, NOAA Seek Source Of Oil - Stinson Beach (12/8/2001) Monterey County Herald.

Don't Interfere With Fish Harvest (12/11/2001) Monterey County Herald. Opinion

Congress Supports Visitors Site (12/12/2001) Monterey County Herald.

Monterey Bay Sanctuary to get visitors center (12/12/01) San Jose Mercury News.

Sanctuary visitors center planned. (12/13/01), Santa Cruz Sentinel, Brian Seals.

The Cambrian. Sanctuary takes soundings. (12/13/01) Describes scoping meetings in Cambria & SLO

Marine Sanctuary Center funded. (12/13/01), SLO Tribune

Monterey bay sanctuary on track for public visitor's center. (12/15/01) SLO Tribune.

Tar ball probed for bird link. (12/14/01), Santa Cruz Sentinel, staff.

Harbor plans to add a pier. (12/14/01), Santa Cruz Sentinel, Brian Seals. Inside the SC harbor; Comment period open through Jan.8.

Thanks To Staff Of Sea Sanctuary (12/15/2001) Monterey County Herald. Opinion.

Seal group head steps down (12/27/01) The Cambrian. Susan Mcdonald will be stepping down as Executive Director of the Friends of the Elephant Seal, to be replaced by interim director Kathryn Karako.

Large winter swells keep lifeguards on guard. (12/28/01), Santa Cruz Sentinel, Cathy Redfern.

Otter Watch (12/30/01) SLO Tribune. Unusually high death rates among Central Coast sea otter populations.

The secret's out: surfers prefer San Luis Obispo. (1/3/02). San Luis Obispo County rates as one of the top 10 surf areas in the country.

Great white sharks cruise open ocean, researchers find; Tracking devices allow study of predator's lengthy range. (1/3/02), Santa Cruz Sentinel, Jondi Gumz.

Original aquarium otter euthanized at age 17. (1/4/02) Santa Cruz Sentinel, staff.

Holly was interviewed on the progress of the Sanctuary's ag plan implementation by the editor of Ag Alert, a newspaper that goes out to 95,000 Farm Bureau members around the state.

Source of oil elusive; Agencies searching for spill that has killed nearly 900 birds since November. (1-8-02), San Jose Mercury News, David Beck.

Nitrogen pumped into ballast tanks kills exotic stowaways. (1-9-02), Santa Cruz Sentinel, AP. Research by our own (formerly) Mario Tamburri.

Sanctuary boundary fix eyed: City wants to restore site's missing piece. (1/11/02), Santa Cruz Sentinel, Dan White. Long front page article on possible request by SC City Council to change Sanctuary boundaries along SC coastline.

Federal government tries to overturn ban on offshore exploration for oil. (1/11/02), Santa Cruz Sentinel, AP.

Salmon run: Coho show increased numbers in annual return. (1/13/02), Santa Cruz Sentinel, Brian Seals. Front page feature with photo.

Sailboat sinks after running aground. (1/14/02) Santa Cruz Sentinel, staff. At the mouth of the SC Harbor.

A filmmaker for the cable television program, "National Geographic Today", filmed the elephant seals at Piedras Blancas and interviewed Michele Roest and Gary Hughey as well as docents from the nonprofit organization, Friends of the Elephant Seal.

KSBW interviewed Andrew DeVogelaere regarding a study showing human pathogens being found in sea otters off Pacific Grove. The study was related to a fine for sewage spills, and the story was aired at 5 PM, 6PM and 11 PM on January 25th.

Sanctuary expansion driven by special interests - Opinion article written by James Wood, San Luis Obispo Tribune, Jan 28, 2002.

The editor of MPA News interviewed Holly regarding the role of MPA's in water quality issues.

Council Backs Sanctuary Changes, Morro Bay Favors Marine Plan Drafted by Monterey Council, (1/30/02) by Neil Farrell, The San Luis Obispo Tribune, Page 1,.

Sanctuary Jet Ski Ban Likely , (1/31/02) Stett Holbrook, Half Moon Bay Review,  
[http://www.hmbreview.com/display/inn\\_news/News/story03.txt](http://www.hmbreview.com/display/inn_news/News/story03.txt)

Conservation Effort Working, (2/3/02) .Monterey County Herald, Opinion Section,

Smoke On the Water—The PC of PWC in the MBNMS, (2/4/02) by Ben Marcus, from the Aggroville Chatroom at [www.mavsurfer.com](http://www.mavsurfer.com),

Sanctuary Plan Updated (2/5/02) Monterey County Herald, Opinion Section

Source of Oil Leak May Be Shipwreck, (2/5/02) Jane Kay, San Francisco Chronicle,

Shipwreck May Be Linked To Oil Spill, (2/6/02) Monterey County Herald  
Lines In The Water by Andrew Scutro, (2/7/02), Coast Weekly

Sewage May Be Harming Sea Otters, (2/10/02) Monterey County Herald

Sunken Freighter Source Of Oil Spill, (2/10/02) Monterey County Herald